

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 DODE-00 H-02 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 /045 W

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R 180905Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8186

INFO USCINCEUR

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 1967

DEPT PASS DOD/ISA/DSAA

DEPT FOR AF/SCHAUFLE AND PM/VEST

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS

SUBJ: MILITARY ASSISTANCE: EPMG REACTIONS

1. I AM CONCERNED THAT WE ARE NOT ORCHESTRATING EXISTING AND IMPENDING BAD NEWS FOR EPMG ON MAP MATTERS IN MANNER THAT WILL MINIMIZE FRICTIONS WITH EPMG. WE HAVE SEVERAL INSTANCES:

(A) DOD DECISION TO RAISE PRICE OF ALREADY-DELIVERED M-60 TANKS BY US\$100,000 EACH WAS CONVEYED IN WASHINGTON TO ETHIOPIAN EMBASSY AND WE WERE NOTIFIED ONLY FIVE DAYS LATER ABOUT SUBSTANTIVE DECISION ON PRICE RISE, AND FACT OF NOTIFICATION TO EMBASSY.

(B) THROUGH DOD ERROR IN PROCUREMENT DOCUMENTS, SOME PARTS FOR AIM-9B MISSILES ARE MISSING WITH RESULT THAT MISSILES (VITAL FOR AIR DEFENSE) CANNOT BE OPERATIONAL UNTIL ABOUT JULY THIS YEAR, A FULL YEAR AFTER WE AND EPMG HAD PLANNED.

(C) WE NOW HAVE WORD IN CONFIDENTIAL DOD CABLE TO CHMAAG THAT SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HAS RECOMMENDED CUT IN MAP FOR CURRENT YEAR TO \$5 MILLION.

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THAT CABLE DOES NOT TELL US WHETHER COMMITTEE ACTION IS

STILL CLASSIFIED WHETHER ETH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON
LIKELY KNOWS, AND WHETHER WE CAN DISCUSS IMPLICATIONS WITH
MOD HERE. LOGICALLY EPMG SHOULD BE GIVEN CHANCE TO REACT
TO USG SUGGESTIONS ON HOW PROGRAM SHOULD BE REVAMPED IF
CUT IS FINALLY MADE. AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THAT DECISION
IS WHETHER TO RETAIN IN MAP PROGRAM COST OF 105 FT PATROL
BOAT, OR TO DROP THE BOAT AND CONCENTRATE ON LONG LIST OF
MISCELLANEOUS O&M ITEMS WHICH EPMG WOULD FIND IT
COMPLICATED TO PROCURE UNDER FMS.

2. SO FAR WE HAVE ONLY PRELIMINARY REACTION FROM EPMG ON FIRST TWO
ITEMS ABOVE, REACTION WHICH WAS STRONGLY NEGATIVE. WE CAN AND
WILL ADJUST TO WASHINGTON REALITIES, BUT I SEE LITTLE EVIDENCE
THAT WASHINGTON ORGANIZATIONS ARE SUFFICIENTLY MINDFUL OF NEED
TO INSTITUTE FRANK DIALOGUE WITH EPMG HERE IN EFFORT TO MINIMIZE
ENDEMIC SUSPICIONS WITHIN DIRG. WITH TFAI SITUATION HEATING UP,
AND INTERNAL TENSIONS ON RISE (WITNESS ARRESTS OF HIGH LEVEL
FIGURES MOST ON CONSERVATIVE SIDE OF SPECTRUM), PRUDENCE SHOULD
DICTATE THAT BAD NEWS BE CAREFULLY ORCHESTRATED AND FRANKLY
DISCUSSED HERE. IN ORDER TO DO SO WE NEED BACKGROUND
INFO THAT IS SO FAR UNAVAILABLE. WE HAVE ASKED FOR
RATIONALE FOR PRICE RISE ON M-60 TANKS BUT HAVE RECEIVED
NO REPLY AS YET.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPT AND DOD GIVE SPECIAL
ATTENTION TO NEED FOR EMB/MAAG CONSULTATIONS WITH EPMG,
AND PROVIDE TIMELY INSTRUCTIONS AND BACKGROUND SO THAT
CONSULTATIONS CAN TAKE PLACE IN ADDIS.
HUMMEL

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NNN

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